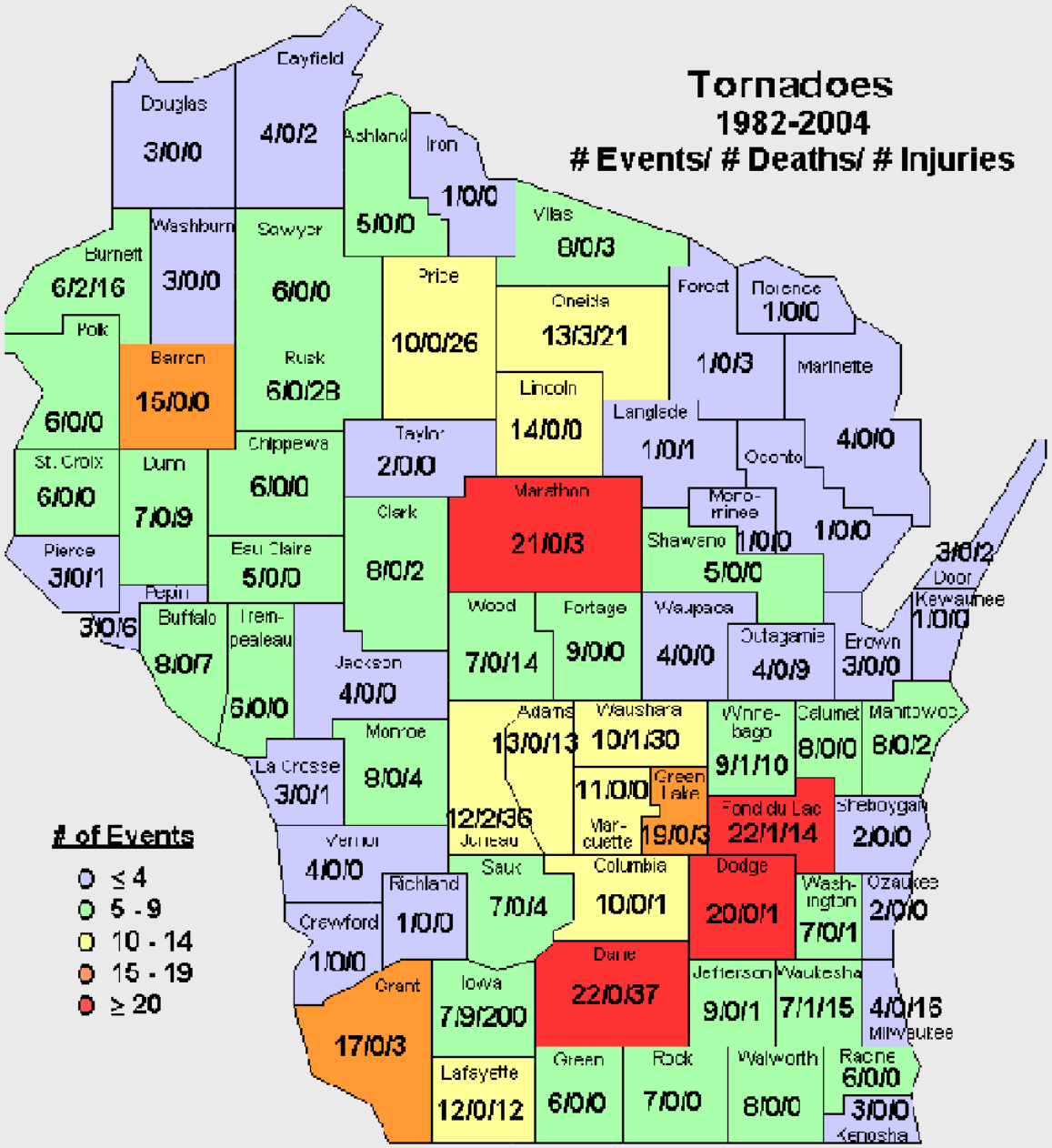
Installation Safety Office

1678 S. 10th Ave

Fort McCoy, WI

Background

- Wisconsin averages 21 confirmed tornado touchdowns each year. In 2005, Wisconsin had a record 62 tornadoes reported, including 27 that occurred on 18 August.
- Knowing what to do and where to go in the event of severe weather is critical.


Tornadoes
1982-2004
Events/ # Deaths/ # Injuries
Douglas 3/0/0
Bayfield 4/0/2
Ashland 5/0/0
Iron 1/0/0
Vilas 8/0/3
Washburn 3/0/0
Sawyer 6/0/0
Burnett 6/2/16
Price 10/0/26
Oneida 13/3/21
Forest 1/0/3
Florence 1/0/0
Marinette 4/0/0
Polk 6/0/0
Barron 15/0/0
Rusk 6/0/23
Lincoln 14/0/0
Langlade 1/0/1
Oconto 1/0/0
Taylor 2/0/0
Chippewa 6/0/0
St. Croix 6/0/0
Dunn 7/0/9
Clark 8/0/2
Marathon 21/0/3
Menominee 1/0/0
Shawano 5/0/0
Door 3/0/2
Pierce 3/0/1
Eau Claire 5/0/0
Pepin 3/0/6
Buffalo 8/0/7
Trempealeau 6/0/0
Jackson 4/0/0
Wood 7/0/14
Portage 9/0/0
Waupaca 4/0/0
Outagamie 4/0/9
Brown 3/0/0
Kewaunee 1/0/0
Adams 13/0/13
Waushara 10/1/30
Winnebago 9/1/10
Calumet 8/0/0
Manitowoc 8/0/2
La Crosse 3/0/1
Monroe 8/0/4
Juneau 12/2/36
Marquette 11/0/0
Green Lake 19/0/3
Fond du Lac 22/1/14
Sheboygan 2/0/0
Vernon 4/0/0
Richland 1/0/0
Sauk 7/0/4
Columbia 10/0/1
Dodge 20/0/1
Washington 7/0/1
Ozaukee 2/0/0
Crawford 1/0/0
Grant 17/0/3
Iowa 7/9/200
Dane 22/0/37
Jefferson 9/0/1
Waukesha 7/1/15
Milwaukee 4/0/15
Lafayette 12/0/12
Green 6/0/0
Rock 7/0/0
Walworth 8/0/0
Racine 6/0/0
Kenosha 3/0/0
# of Events
≤ 4
5 - 9
10 - 14
15 - 19
≥ 20

Facts

- May strike quickly, with little or no warning.
- May appear nearly transparent until dust and debris are picked up or a cloud forms in the funnel.
- Average forward speed is 30 MPH, but may vary from stationary to 70 MPH.
- Waterspouts are tornadoes that form over water.
- Most likely to occur between 3 – 9 p.m., but can occur at any time.

Terms

- Tornado WATCH
  - Tornadoes are possible. Remain alert for approaching storms. Watch the sky and stay tuned to a NOAA Weather Radio or local media (radio/television stations) for information.
- Tornado WARNING
  - A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Take shelter immediately.

Before

- Be alert to changing weather conditions.
  - Listen to NOAA Weather Radio/local media for latest information.
  - Look for the following danger signs:
    - Dark, often greenish sky
    - Large hail
    - A large dark, low-lying cloud (particularly if rotating)
    - Loud roar, similar to a freight train
- If you see approaching storms or any of the danger signs, be prepared to take shelter immediately.

During

If you are in:

- **A structure (building).**
- **Avoid places with wide-spanned roofs (auditoriums, cafeterias, gymnasiums).**

Then:

- **Go to a pre-designated shelter area such as a safe room, basement, storm cellar, or the lowest building level.**
- **If no basement, go to the center of an interior room on the lowest level away from corners, windows, doors, and outside walls.**
- **Get under a sturdy table and use arms to protect head and neck.**
- **Do not open windows.**

During

If you are in:

- **A vehicle, trailer, or mobile home.**

Then:

- **Get out immediately and go to the lowest floor of a sturdy, nearby building or a storm shelter.**
- **Mobile homes, even if tied down, offer little protection from tornadoes.**

During

If you are in:

- **The outside with no shelter**

Then:

- **Lie flat in a nearby ditch or depression and cover head with hands. Be aware of the potential for flooding.**
- **Do not get under an overpass or bridge. You are safer in a low, flat location.**
- **Never try to outrun a tornado in urban or congested areas in a vehicle. Instead, leave the vehicle immediately for safe shelter.**
- **Watch our for flying debris. Flying debris from tornadoes causes most fatalities and injuries.**

After

- **Recovering from a disaster is usually a gradual process. Safety is a primary issue, as are mental and physical well-being. If assistance is available, knowing how to access it makes the process faster and less stressful.**

- **The following slides contain some basic health and safety guidelines.**

Aiding the Injured

- Check for injuries. Do not attempt to move seriously injured persons unless they are in immediate danger of death or further injury. If you must move an unconscious person, first stabilize the neck and back, then call for help immediately.
  - If the victim is not breathing, carefully position the victim for artificial respiration, clear the airway, and commence mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.
  - Maintain body temperature with blankets. Be sure the victim does not become overheated.
  - Never try to feed liquids to an unconscious person.

Health

- Be aware of exhaustion. Don’t try to do too much at once. Set priorities and pace yourself. Get plenty of rest.
- Drink plenty of clean water. Eat well. Wear sturdy work boots and gloves.
- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and clean water often when working in debris.

Safety Issues

- Be aware of new safety hazards created by the disaster. Watch for washed out roads, contaminated buildings, contaminated water, gas leaks, broken glass, damaged electrical wiring, and slippery floors.
- Inform local authorities about health and safety issues, including chemical spills, downed power lines, washed our roads, smoldering insulation, and dead animals.

More Information

- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) offers a variety of information concerning disasters.

www.fema.gov

- Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) also offers information concerning disasters.

http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov